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ABSTRACT

Few images are as compelling as a child who has become the victim of a manmade or natural disaster. This book is designed to draw together data, theory, and observation that address children's psychological response to disaster. Characterized by its diversity in scope, nature, and quality, some of the material comes in the form of observations made by professionals at disaster sites. Therefore, clinical and anecdotal material is woven through many of the chapters, but is especially prominent in the chapters on intervention, which were written by professionals who worked with children following disasters. Likewise, attempts have been made to empirically and systematically document the immediate and long-term effects of various types of disasters on children. These studies are summarized and critically reviewed in such a manner as to allow the reader to access quickly the available knowledge about the impact of any given type of disaster on children. Efforts were made throughout the volume to present findings in a developmental context so that the potential interventionist can approach children with this perspective. Finally, fundamental areas of knowledge are presented which must be understood and incorporated into future work with children. (RJM)

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